

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

HARDY FERNS

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1920 ★

U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Most of our native ferns can easily be cultivated. They do well in shady and half-shady places in the garden and park, and are often useful for growing close to houses in corners which are too dark for most plants. On the other hand, many of them will grow in places which receive considerable direct sunlight, though very few enjoy full exposure to the sun, at least under ordinary garden conditions.

Most ferns do best in a light soil containing much vegetable matter, and it is always best to work a considerable amount of leaf mould into the soil of a fern bed. While few ferns grow well in very dry soil, the common notion that they require very wet or almost swampy conditions is not well founded. Most of them, even those that grow naturally in very wet places, do nicely under ordinary garden treatment, in the matter of moisture.

While the native ferns are, of course, perfectly hardy, most of them are better off with a light covering of leaves in winter. In their natural habitat they are usually well covered with leaves and snow throughout the winter.

Among the best of our larger ferns for cultivation are the Ostrich, the Cinnamon and the Goldies Fern; of the medium large are the Lady Fern, the Wood Fern, the Marsh Shield Fern, the Maidenhair, the Evergreen and the Sensitive Fern. Rock and Cliff Ferns are rather hard to establish in the garden.

The main types most generally planted, which always give satisfaction when properly handled are the Ostrich, Cinnamon and Goldiana; other distinct and different types are the Maidenhair and the Sensitive.

The native hardy ferns do not make satisfactory house plants. Most of them ripen up their leaves in the fall and remain dormant all winter, even under the most favorable conditions.

ADIANTUM PEDATUM, Maidenhair Fern. One to three feet high. Frond, forked at the summit of the slender, polished, black stalk, the recurved branches bearing on one side several slender, spreading pinnate divisions; pinnae oblique, triangular oblong.

For purposes of identification it would seem almost superfluous to describe the Maidenhair—a plant which probably is more generally appreciated than all the rest of the ferns together.



MAIDENHAIR FERN (*Adiantum pedatum*) AND LADY FERN (*Asplenium felix faemina*).

Its chosen haunts are dim, moist hollows in the woods or shaded, sloping hillsides. In such retreats you find the feathery fronds tremulous on their black, glistening stalks.

ASPLENIUM FELIX FÆMINA, Lady Fern. One to three feet high, with tripled, straw-colored or brownish stalks. Frond, broad and lance-shaped, tapering toward the apex of pinnae; pinnae lance-shape; pinnules oblong, lanceolate, toothed or incised. The earliest fronds uncurl in May. In June the plant is very graceful and pleasing.

ASPLENIUM THELYPTEROIDES, Silver Spleenwort. One to three feet high. Fronds lance-shaped, tapering both ways from the middle, once pinnate; pinnae linear-lanceolate, fruit dots oblong; indusium silvery when young.

The Silver Spleenwort is adapted to a range from Canada to Alabama and does well under cultivation.

ASPIDIUM CRISTATUM (*Dryopteris cristata*). Evergreen Fern. One to two feet high; stalks of sterile fronds much shorter than those of fertile fronds. Fronds linear-oblong or lance-shaped, nearly twice pinnate; pinnae rather short, deeply impressed with veins, cut deeply into oblong, obtuse, finely-toothed divisions; fruit dots large, round, half-way between midvein and margin; indusium large, flat.

ASPIDIUM GOLDIANA (*Dryopteris Goldiana*), Goldie's Fern. Two to more than four feet high, with stalks which are chaffy near the base. Fronds broadly ovate, once pinnate; pinnae pinnatifid, oblong-linear, slightly toothed; indusium very large. This fern ranks with the Osmundas and with the Ostrich Fern in size and vigorous beauty.

ASPIDIUM SPINULOSUM, Wood Fern. The plant varies greatly in height, breadth and way of holding itself. Sometimes the fronds stand three feet high and are broad and spreading. Again they are tall, slender and somewhat erect. At its best it grows with almost tropical luxuriance and is a plant of rare beauty, its fronds having a certain feathery aspect.

OSMUNDACEA, Royal Fern Family, also called Flowering Ferns, because their fruiting fronds are somewhat flowerlike in appearance.

OSMUNDA CINNAMOMEA, Cinnamon Fern. A large fern growing in a crown two to five feet high. Sterile fronds broadly lance-shaped, once pinnate; pinnae cut into broadly oblong divisions that do not reach the midvein, each pinnae with a tuft of rusty wool at its base beneath. The plant is a superb one when seen at its best. Its tall, sterile fronds curve gracefully outward. The Osmundas are easily cultivated and group themselves effectively in shaded corners, while they will also do fairly well in the most exposed sunlight.

OSMUNDA CLAYTONIANA, Interrupted Fern. Its appearance is very much like that of the Cinnamon Fern, and it is easily cultivated.



(*Aspidium Goldiana*).

DRYOPTERIS THELYPTERIS, Marsh Shield Fern. Fronds lance-shaped, slightly downy, once pinnate, fertile fronds longer stalked than the sterile; pinnae, the lower ones, hardly smaller than the others, cut into oblong, entire lobes, which are obtuse in the sterile fronds, but appear acute in the fertile ones from the strongly revolute margin; veins once or twice forked; one to three feet.



OSMUNDA IN THE BACKGROUND AND SHIELD FERN IN THE FOREGROUND.

ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS, Sensitive Fern. Sterile fronds 6 to 36 in. high, broadly triangular, deeply cut into somewhat oblong, wavy, toothed divisions, the lower ones almost reaching the midrib, the upper ones less deeply cut. Fertile fronds quite unlike the sterile fronds and shorter, erect, rigid, contracted; pinnules rolled up into dark green, berry-like bodies which hold the spore-cases.



MARSH SHIELD FERN (*Dryopteris thelypteris*).



STERILE LEAVES OF SENSITIVE FERN (*Onoclea sensibilis*).

LUDVIG MOSBÆK FERNDALE

HARDY FERNS

Askov, Minnesota

Hardy Ferns are among the most attractive plants for decorative and ornamental purposes in natural groves, parks, cemeteries and in private gardens.

You should include Hardy Ferns in your list or catalogue of decorative plants and place your order in the fall for a reasonable number of plants. During the planting season in the spring I am prepared to pack and ship by express generally inside of 24 hours.

Thousands and tens of thousands of these attractive plants are annually sold all over the United States, and I have customers who year by year are placing increased orders for Ferns with me and evidently are making a success of handling them. Some are buying more than 4,000 a year. But there are a few from whom I do not hear more than once; this is not as it should be. If you have not made a success on account of the plants I shipped you not doing well, I shall be very pleased if you will write me fully about it, stating what, in your opinion, is the cause and especially what varieties have not done well and I might be willing to send you an assortment free of charge for a new trial. I want to make every sale of these lovely plants a success, and I don't know any reason why it can not be, at least with some varieties. Your success is my benefit, your failure is my failure.

My experience here is, that in the spring I can simply place the Aspidiums, Aspleniums, Onoclea and Osmundas on top of the ground in full sunlight, covered with sawdust, and they will keep growing all summer without any special care, after they have received a good soaking once or twice. If planted in ordinary way, the Ferns should be given a heavy soaking to make the soil compact and a mulch of sawdust or any other good mulching material.

In the fall I dig all the Ferns intended for sale during winter and next spring. A sufficient supply from which to fill winter orders is placed in a pile in cellar, covered with sawdust, while another supply is kept outdoors, mixed with sawdust and allowed to freeze solid, then covered with more sawdust to keep them frozen. This prevents early sprouting and prolongs the shipping season up to June.

There is practically only five or six distinct types, represented most effectively in the following varieties: 1, the Maidenhair; 2, the Goldiana and Silver Spleenworth; 3, the Sensitive; 4, the Ostrich; 5, the Cinnamomea and Claytoniana. And then there is the different varieties of Cliff Ferns which are small and have very little value in landscape gardening.

The best repeating sellers are: the Ostrich, Onoclea struthiopteris; the Cinnamomea, Osmunda; and the Goldiana; all different types and strong decorative growers; for more variety in type, select the sensitive Maidenhair and evergreen, they are not nearly as strong growers but very decorative. Hardy Ferns, to make best effect, should be planted quite close.

Wholesale Price List --- For Dealers Only

	Per 100	10	Each
Adiantum pedatum, Maidenhair	\$9.00	\$1.00	\$0.12
Aspidium cristatum, Evergreen	8.00	.90	.10
Aspidium goldiana	9.00	1.00	.12
Aspidium spinulosum, Wood Fern	9.00	1.00	.12
Asplenium felix femina, Lady Fern	9.00	1.00	.12
Asplenium thelypteris, Silver Spleenworth ..	9.00	1.00	.12
Dryopteris thelypteris, Shield Fern	9.00	1.00	.12
Onoclea sensibilis	8.00	.90	.10
Onoclea struthiopteris, Ostrich Fern	10.00	1.20	.15
Osmunda cinnamomea	12.00	1.40	.15
Osmunda claytoniana	12.00	1.40	.15

One hundred or more of different varieties, your selection, billed at the hundred rate, and for a full thousand or more deduct 10 per cent for cash with order.

I shall appreciate it if I may book your order early in the fall, whether you want it shipped in the winter or spring. For fall shipments I allow 5 per cent discount.

Yours very truly,

LUDVIG MOSBÆK.

ONOCLEA STRUTIOPTERIS, Ostrich Fern. Grows in a crown three to ten feet high. Fronds broadly lance-shaped, once pinnate; pinnae divided into narrow, oblong segments which do not reach the midvein. Great plume-like frond of a rich green. This magnificent plant luxuriates



OSTRICH FERN (*Onoclea struthiopteris*).

on soil which is subject to an annual overflow. Its vase-like masses of foliage suggest the Cinnamon Fern, but the fertile fronds are dark green while those of the Cinnamon Fern are golden brown. The Ostrich Fern does well under cultivation and it propagates sometimes by means of underground runners.

The foregoing described varieties represent the types most useful and most easily cultivated for decorative purposes, for planting in private gardens and parks. They can be shipped almost any distance in the fall when dormant, by freight. The heaviest for shipping is the Osmunda. When received in the fall put them into a pile, place some straw or leaves over them, and give them a good soaking. Do not be afraid to let them freeze. They will come out in fine shape in the spring. For spring shipments I would recommend express.

I shall be pleased to quote special prices on large quantities.

Fall shipping begins in September and October, when plants are ripe and dormant, and can ship all through the winter and spring.

I have built up an extensive shipping business in hardy ferns; my shipments and satisfied customers cover practically every state in the Union and Canada, and almost every up-to-date landscape gardener is handling them by the thousands.

Packing charged extra at cost.

All the ferns offered are not less than three years old, except Sensitive Ferns, which are supplied from underground runners.

Brake Fern I do not quote any more, because it is a poor transplant.

In the spring planting season I generally pack and ship inside 24 hours after order is received.

LUDVIG MOSBÆK,

Ferndale, Askov, Minnesota.

Adiantum pedatum, Maidenhair.....	\$15.00	\$1.75	\$0.25
Aspidium cristatum, Evergreen.....	15.00	1.75	.25
Aspidium goldiana	17.50	2.00	.30
Aspidium spinulosum, Wood Fern.....	15.00	1.75	.25
Asplenium felix fœmina, Lady Fern.....	15.00	1.75	.25
Asplenium thelypteris, Silver Spleenwort.....	17.50	2.00	.30
Dryopteris thelypteris, Shield Fern.....	15.00	1.75	.25
Onoclea sensibilis	12.00	1.50	.20
Onoclea strutiopteris, Ostrich Fern.....	17.50	2.00	.25
Osmunda cinnamomea	20.00	2.25	.30
Osmunda claytoniana	20.00	2.25	.30

One hundred or more of different varieties, your selection, billed at the hundred rate, and for a full thousand or more deduct 10 per cent for cash with order.